



Office use only:

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2012 Rule Change Proposal

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Note: Proposals must be submitted to the Inboard Office by October 31 ,2011 to be considered.

Save and E-mail completed form to: inboardoffice@yahoo.com

US mail to Rich Evans APBA Inboard Office 4992 County Highway 96 Carey, OH
43316-9567

Check all that apply:

- General Safety Rule
- General Racing Rule
- Stock Class Technical Rule *
- Modified Class Technical Rule *

Affected Class(es): all inboard classes

Specific Rule Information: [Note: All fields must be completed for consideration.]

Rule number 11.3.1
Page number of rule: page 20 (printed book); page 11 webfile

Author's VERY BRIEF Summary of Proposed Action:

Allow an unqualified rookie driver(s) or qualified drivers needing to requalify or qualify for higher speed classes, the opportunity to race in a championship final, at the referee's discretion.

Affected Rule:

11.3.1 A new driver or unqualified rookie may run qualifying heats during the UIM World Championships, APBA Summer Nationals, APBA Divisional Championships or APBA North American Championships, following referee instruction, to obtain the necessary heats to become a qualified driver, but will not be eligible to advance to the final. However, if there is a need to fill the field, the boat will be eligible to compete in the final with a qualified driver.

Proposed rule:

11.3.1 A new driver or unqualified rookie may run qualifying heats during the UIM World Championships, APBA Summer Nationals, APBA Divisional Championships or APBA North American Championships, following referee instruction, to obtain the necessary heats to become a qualified driver, but will not be eligible to advance to the final. However, if there is a need to fill the field, the boat will be eligible to compete in the final with a qualified driver **or at the referee's discretion, an unqualified driver may compete in the final, obeying all referee instructions. If a consolation heat for the championship final is scheduled, as described in paragraph 23.5, a new driver or unqualified rookie may compete, obeying all referee instructions. In either case, the heat run shall count towards obtaining necessary heats for driver**

qualification. Qualified drivers, as defined in paragraph 11.4.2, shall be eligible to compete in a championship final or championship consolation heat in the same manner described above.

Reason for change:

To remove a barrier to new drivers entering the sport. In 2011, an unqualified rookie driver in the GNH class was not allowed to race at all on the second day of the Nationals. This person had invested significant time, money, and effort in entering the race, and lost an opportunity to use that investment. Such an incident can lead one to the conclusion that the investment was not wise and find something else to do. With two championship events in the local season, this person was subjected to this ruling a second time, with no other place to race in the interim that met his budget. At this second race, two additional drivers were similarly affected. The situation described can occur at any and all championship events in any class, with the direction of APBA inboard towards finding new membership and new competitors, there needs to be no discouragement to those entering or considering entrance to our sport. This rule change will allow the newer driver to still compete, at the referee's discretion. "With referee discretion" ensures that the integrity of the competition is not compromised. Wording regarding consolation heats was added, since such a heat is an excellent means to make sure competitors are getting race time commensurate with the significant time, money, and effort invested by racers, and for newer or requalifying drivers, it is opportunity to achieve said qualified status and be able to race without restriction sooner rather than later. Since this change involves removing a barrier to racing for competitors or prospective competitors, the rule change should be made effective for the 2012 racing season.